

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. After entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-20, and 23-28 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.¹

By way of summary, the Office Action presented the following issues: the Office objected to Claim 1 as containing informalities; Claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-15, 17, 19-20, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2002/0114466 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter "Tanaka") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2001/0009006 to Sugahara et al. (hereinafter "Sugahara"), U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2003/0110131 to Alain et al. (hereinafter "Alain"), and U.S. Patent No. 6,430,619 to Sitaraman et al. (hereinafter "Sitaraman"); Claims 8 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tanaka in view of Sugahara, Alain, Sitaraman, and U.S. Patent Application Publ'n No. 2002/0184515 to Oho et al. (hereinafter "Oho"); and Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Oho in view of Sugahara, Alain, and Sitaraman.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Applicants and Applicants' representative wish to thank Examiner Schwartz for the courtesy of the personal interview granted on June 29, 2010. During the interview, it was agreed that a *prima facie* case of obviousness had not been established with regard to the features of Claim 1. Comments similar to those presented during the interview are included herein.

¹ The amendments to Claim 2 find support at least in Figure 6 and in its accompanying text in the specification.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office objected to Claim 1 as containing informalities. During the interview, it was agreed that the claim objection would be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-15, 17, 19-20, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Tanaka in view of Sugahara, Alain, and Sitaraman. During the interview, it was agreed that a *prima facie* case of obviousness had not been established with regard to the features of Claim 1.

Applicants submit that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Tanaka, Sugahara, Alain, and Sitaraman.

It is further submitted that independent Claims 13, 19-20, and 23-25 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguish over any proper combination of Tanaka, Sugahara, Alain, and Sitaraman, at least for reasons analogous to those discussed during the interview with regard to Claim 1.

It is additionally submitted that Oho fails to remedy the deficiencies in Tanaka, Sugahara, Alain, and Sitaraman. Thus, it is believed that the rejections of dependent Claims 8 and 16 and independent Claim 19 are moot.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added new Claims 26-28 to set forth the invention of Claim 1 in a varying scope. It is respectfully submitted: new Claim 26 finds support at least in Claim 7; new Claim 27 finds support at least in Figure 10; and new Claim 28 finds support at least in Claims 1-3.

It is further submitted that new Claims 26-27 are allowable by virtue of their dependencies from Claim 1 and for the more detailed features presented by the new claims.

It is additionally submitted that no proper combination of the applied references discloses or suggests "reading out key information, the key information provided upon fewer than a predetermined number of devices being associated with the grouped device identification information," as recited in new Claim 28.

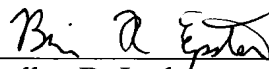
Applicants submit that new Claim 28 patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of the applied references.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is patentably distinguished over the cited references. The application is therefore in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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